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THE BALANCE CHALLENGE

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Balancing work expectations and relationships can be a challenge. Supervisors or co-workers set standards, with expectations for their fulfillment on a daily basis. The to-do list at work and home may have more tasks to complete than there are hours in the day or week. As Christians, we want to serve in a way that is pleasing to God. We seek to build relationships with co-workers and friends. Extended family may have other expectations of the role you play in their life. For those who are married, a spouse and children have their needs and anticipations.

A Christian worker must always remember that she or he represents the King of the Universe. The interaction with a supervisor or a co-worker may be the only time that individual has exposure to a living

faith. In the workplace, connecting and supporting others helps to strengthen the relationship and create bonds of camaraderie.

The care of elderly parents or other relatives can be another responsibility that takes time and energy. The nurture of the relationship with extended family can be involved, but rewarding.

With such tall orders to fill, the married individual may sometimes unintentionally neglect spouse and children. Consequently, a feeling of separation results, producing an imbalance between work, ministry, and home life. When there is no balance, complex family relations and regrets are imminent. Balancing these two cornerstones of life involves finding a medium in which one can meet the responsibilities of both

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career and relationships with a boss, co-workers, and family.

The work of developing and improving family life is crucial because of the direct correlation between a healthy family and a fulfilled career. The foundation for achieving this outcome is love. The Bible describes love as something that is not provoked, thinks no evil, doesn't envy, rejoices in truth, and endures all things. (1 Corinthians 13:4-7) A loving family willingly shares dreams, possessions, memories, smiles, frowns, success, and failure.

However, it is important to remember that even the most ideal family on any given day is also vulnerable to attack and failure. The enemy of God (Satan) specifically targets families.

Therefore, individuals must be on guard 24/7, presenting families daily before God in prayer. Whatever the family's need, God has a customized plan that will achieve His ultimate goal of happiness. For some, this plan may include participation in professional or spiritual counseling, increased devotional time in the home, developing an attitude of kindness toward others, or reconciling broken relationships.

Joshua, a faithful servant of God, a mentee of Moses, and a decorated military warrior in Israel gave the Israelites ideal counsel for living a happy and balanced life that is still relevant to today. "Now, therefore, fear the Lord, serve Him in sincerity and in truth, and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the River and in Egypt. Serve the Lord! And if it seems evil to you to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." Joshua 24:14-15

Whether you are single or married with children, you can make the intentional choice that Joshua placed before his fellow Israelites. Please accept this invitation to renew your covenant with God, determining that you and your family will serve the Lord above all else.

This issue of *For God and Country* focuses on the balance between career and family, how to create better relationships both at work and at home, and the faith of a praying military spouse.



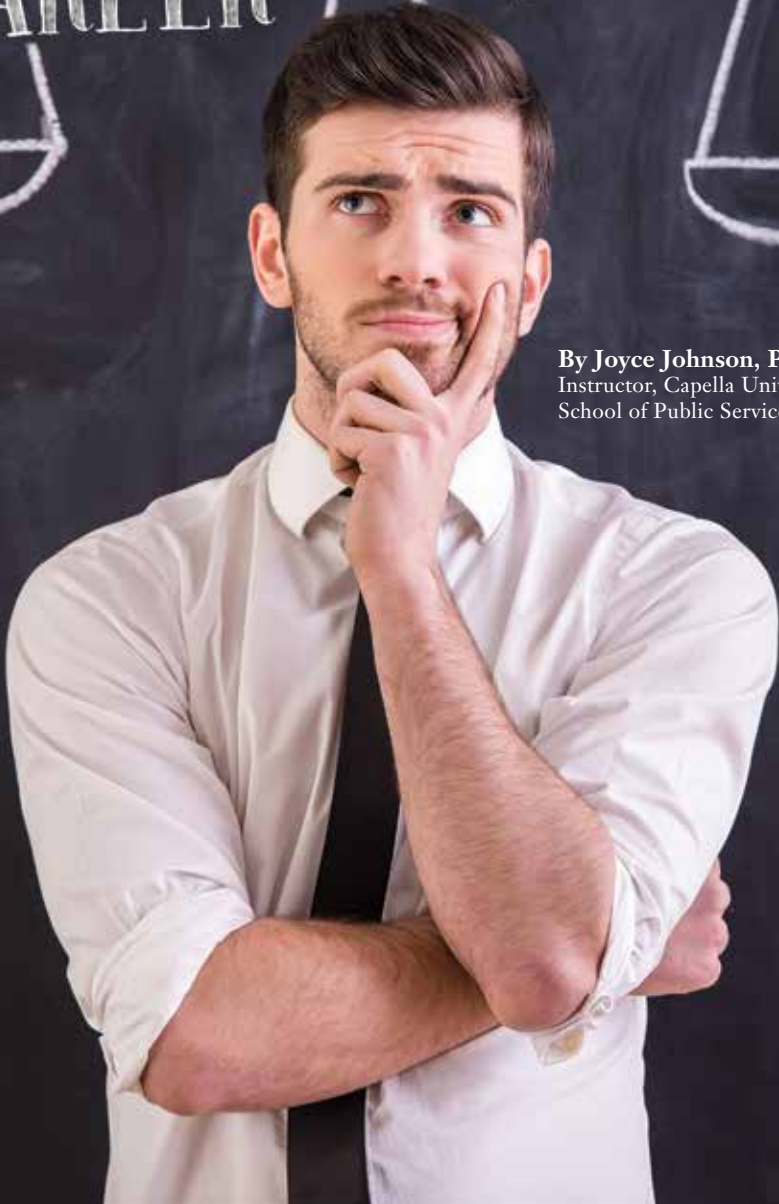
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Adventists serving in a uniformed service, and all veterans are encouraged to join the World Service Organization at AdventistsInUniform.org.

BALANCING

CAREER & FAMILY



By Joyce Johnson, Ph.D.
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Busy is an understatement in the three-member Johnson household, comprised of a chaplain, university professor, and high school senior. Most days begin within a 5:30 - 6:30 a.m. window. Each day typically follows a routine that spans over approximately 18 hours. The resulting short nights hardly begin before the sun's radiance signals another rushed cycle of domestic and vocational toil.

Worship (at least twice daily), school, homework, career work, house chores, and a workout at the gym typically make up the full days that most often, and remarkably, end

the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.”

Through both individual and family worship, God's high place is daily secured, with no possibility of becoming second to another. We absolutely cannot afford to miss daily encounters with God. His wisdom, strength, and grace are essential for even the most minute details of life. In the absence of these, memory functions, physical stamina, time management, patience, and basic virtues underperform, and even falter when least expected.

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with a sense of accomplishment of a successful completion of duties. However, such life demands can challenge families to the core, especially when seeking to manage multiple spontaneous and even planned events. It all gets done with many lessons learned along the way.

BUILD A FOUNDATION FOR SUCCESS

The life demands of our family have made it necessary to have a prioritization that considers spiritual enrichment above all others. We've learned that the precedence given to spiritual growth and development corresponds directly with the degree of success achieved in carrying out each day's activities.

The Bible admonishes the same in John 15:5: "I am the vine, ye are

ACTIVELY COMMUNICATE

One cannot overstate the importance of active communication for a busy family. In addition to the benefit of clarifying roles and understanding how to accomplish shared goals, such connections can preclude potential conflicts that might otherwise result from unsound independent decisions and activities.

During family separations such as a deployment, active communication is particularly essential, as it closes the potential gap of loneliness, allows joint decision-making from a distance, and creates a sense of family unity. Skype, phone calls, and emails were ideal modes of communication for the Johnson family during Washington's one-year deployment with the Navy.

As scary as the separation seemed

at the outset, the daily interaction (always initiated by Washington) made a remarkable difference in how the family managed the year-long detachment.

One occasion stands out when mechanical problems resulted in one of the vehicles needing a tow to a repair shop. Fortunately, because of Washington's regular communication with the family, he was able to help manage this situation all the way from another continent. Similar connections occurred during birthday and holiday celebrations, where Washington was able to be present and sometimes participate.

PRIORITIZE COMMITMENTS

It is important to make time for activities that are most important and truly valued. Prioritize commitments. After spiritual enrichment, our family places a high value on physical fitness that requires a trip to the gym at least 5 of 7 days each week.

Because of the high value put on this activity, everyone's calendar is booked for the gym at the same designated time each day. This goal is important because it allows time for an enjoyable family activity, and has high potential to enhance other objectives favorably by contributing to health and wellness, and ultimately life balance.

Still, there are times when competing life demands displace this and other commitments. These disruptions require constant reprioritization, as well as divine aid. One thing we've learned is that committing our plans to the Lord produces the very best opportunity to arrive at a right end. We have realized strong advantages from soliciting help from the most capable, reliable, and securest source in the universe. We've witnessed God perpetually make good on so many

of His promises, this one included: "Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him and he will do this: He will make your righteous reward shine like the dawn, your vindication like the noonday sun. Psalm 37:5-6 (NIV)

EXPECT AND ADDRESS CHALLENGES

Building a foundation for success, actively communicating, and prioritizing commitments, though not all encompassing, help to set the stage for a proactive approach to balancing family and career.

However, life events and challenges that impact the ability to balance and manage time well are inevitable. These could come in many different forms, but should always be addressed and always considered learning experiences. The deaths of four immediate family members over the course of two and a half years were certainly unexpected events in the Johnson family, but resulted in many lessons learned.

The importance of having a foundation for success was repeatedly validated, as the corresponding spiritual anchor was necessary for dealing with the difficult life challenges. Fortunately, we could also tap into a strong support network where several people were there to listen



and help us work through some of the darkest hours of our lives.

We learned that the stronger the support system, the more likely our family could successfully address its

and each of us to avoid. His ancient invitation and similar promise have not lost their fervor or relevance for helping to balance the lives of families in this day and time.

Jesus understands the plight of families.
He stands ready today with a storehouse of resources that will perfect the work associated with keeping life balanced.

challenges, notwithstanding the divine aid promised in the notable invitation from Christ in Matthew 11:28-30: Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

In context, Jesus sought to offer His chosen people relief from meaningless rounds of “labour” that came in the form of strenuous rabbinical requirements. In an attempt to receive salvation through works, the Jewish people of that day were overwhelmed with, not only the heavy burden of sin, but with so many legalistic and ritualistic requirements that many gave up hope and ceased to profess religious beliefs at all.

The plight of the Jews is a depiction of imbalance in the worst sense, and just what Jesus wanted them

At the beginning and end of each day, Jesus knows, cares, and understands the plight of families. Just as He encouraged and affirmed them during His time on earth, He stands ready today with a storehouse of resources that will perfect the work of homebuilding, parenting, career pursuits, caring for elderly parents, coping with long commutes, and everything else associated with keeping life balanced. His love for families is all-encompassing and considers every possible family circumstance. Each of you is in perfect view of the Saviour! “The eye of the Lord is upon them that fear him, upon them that hope in his mercy” (Psalm 33:18).

No one should despair over a lack of life balance. For the Bible truly declares among many other similar promises that, “I can do all things through Christ, which strengtheneth me.” Philippians 4:13. The keywords are “do,” “through,” and “strengtheneth,” and the key player is Jesus Christ. His wisdom, strength, and power represent the only hope for life balance.

Joyce Johnson is an educator and consultant who writes from Silver Spring, Maryland.



BE THE

BETTER

PERSON

The average working adult spends more time on a daily basis with their co-workers, than with family and friends. Relationships within the workplace are like any other in some respects. They take work and sometimes compromise to make things run smoothly. Some workers don't have a relationship outside of the office building. Others develop friendships that allow for interaction on the weekends and holidays.

In any relationship-whether personal or business-communication is one key to making things run smoothly. There are other behaviours that will also create pleasant and productive relationships.

HAVE A POSITIVE ATTITUDE

Be friendly with those around you. Greet people and make eye contact. Have you ever walked down a hallway and met someone whom you greeted? In turn, they stared straight ahead and didn't even acknowledge your presence. How did that make you feel?

Learn people's name and use them. There is something about hearing another person say your name that instantly takes down barriers. It indicates they know who you are when they see you.

Make sure you understand both spoken and unspoken office rules. If you don't know them ask fellow co-workers.

Dwell on the positive parts of your job. A cheerful attitude, even when the workload is unenjoyable or strenuous, will help others to be in a better frame of mind.

BE PROFESSIONAL

There are some fairly basic things that every employee should do to maintain their professionalism in the workplace.

- **Don't gossip.** Some people believe that gossip is confined to malicious or untrue tales. Did you know that it can include talking about company business with others outside your place of work?

Gossip can erode trust and morale. When co-workers are taking time to share tidbit after tidbit with each other, it means they aren't being productive at their job. Gossip can divide employees into an "us against them" mentality. It causes hurt feelings and can destroy


reputations. Some individuals become so discouraged that they find employment elsewhere.

If you find yourself in a group of gossips, there are several steps you can take. First, don't believe everything you hear. Instead find out what the real situation is and use those facts to disarm the gossips.

- Secondly, **pay attention** to who is spreading the rumors. Is it consistently the same person or people all of the time? You might try to talk with each individual and share the effects gossip can have.
- Third, **don't participate.** If you want to move into any type of leadership position, gossiping may hurt your chances. Focus on work, rather than office politics.

BE RESPECTFUL AND CIVIL

Respect and civility go a long way in building relationships. Be willing to listen to others opinions and ideas.



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IF YOU TALK FACE-TO-FACE WITH PEOPLE ON A REGULAR BASIS, THEY MAY BETTER UNDERSTAND YOUR THOUGHTS IN AN EMAIL YOU SEND THEM.

Support them when you can.

Do you and a colleague disagree on a position? Step back from your position and ask what your colleague's concerns are. Is there something that she is trying to accomplish that you haven't thought about? How can you address any concerns that might exist? If something isn't going to work, remember there are ways to say that without putting an individual in a negative light.

Get to know people by observing them on a regular basis. If you notice a change in their behaviour, pay attention. Is that person facing a crisis at home that others don't know about? Is there a situation that is causing them to lose their temper or be moody and unpleasant? If you notice different behaviour it's a good indicator that something is wrong.

One of the best ways to show

respect to new co-workers is to quietly mentor them in things around the office. Help them understand the work environment. What were the things that you were unsure of during the early days of your work experience? How can you help another feel at ease in this new situation?

COMMUNICATE CLEARLY AND EFFECTIVELY

Communication in any relationship is vital. Without effective communication, misunderstandings occur. This can impact projects and how you deal with co-workers.

When a misunderstanding does occur, take care of it immediately. Don't let a conflict grow out of proportion. Something that can be simply resolved doesn't need to become a major crisis.

Don't conduct all of your communication by electronic means. If you talk face-to-face with people on a regular basis, they may better understand your thoughts in an email you send them. Remember that you can't tell the tone of voice in an email. You can see facial expression and body language. You may write something that you think is innocuous and the reader takes offense at it.

Answer emails, voicemails, and text messages promptly. Don't be that person who never responds and leaves another person waiting for an answer. It only makes more work for them to send another communication. Over time, this type of behaviour can cause fissures in a relationship.

Understand who you are talking to. Everyone comes from different different backgrounds and cultures. Having a broad worldview and understanding can help in communication.

Don't overlook giving feedback on finished projects. Complement those who are involved. Let them know you appreciate the group effort. Pick specific things that went well and highlight those. Suggest changes that can be made in the future, but keep these positive.

Be aware of how your co-workers prefer to communicate. Do they prefer email over the phone? Instant messages? Personal visits? Understanding these preferences can make a difference in the response you receive. If a person prefers email or an instant message and you always make a personal visit, they may see your attempt at communication as a waste of time or even worse, an intrusion on their time. Another individual may view all electronic email as too impersonal and that you don't care about them as a person.

ARE YOU ONLY HEARING?

In today's world, so many things clamor for our attention. Sifting through noise takes effort. In your day-to-day interactions are you just hearing what is being said by co-workers, family, and friends? Do you take the time to carefully listen? What does it mean to truly listen?

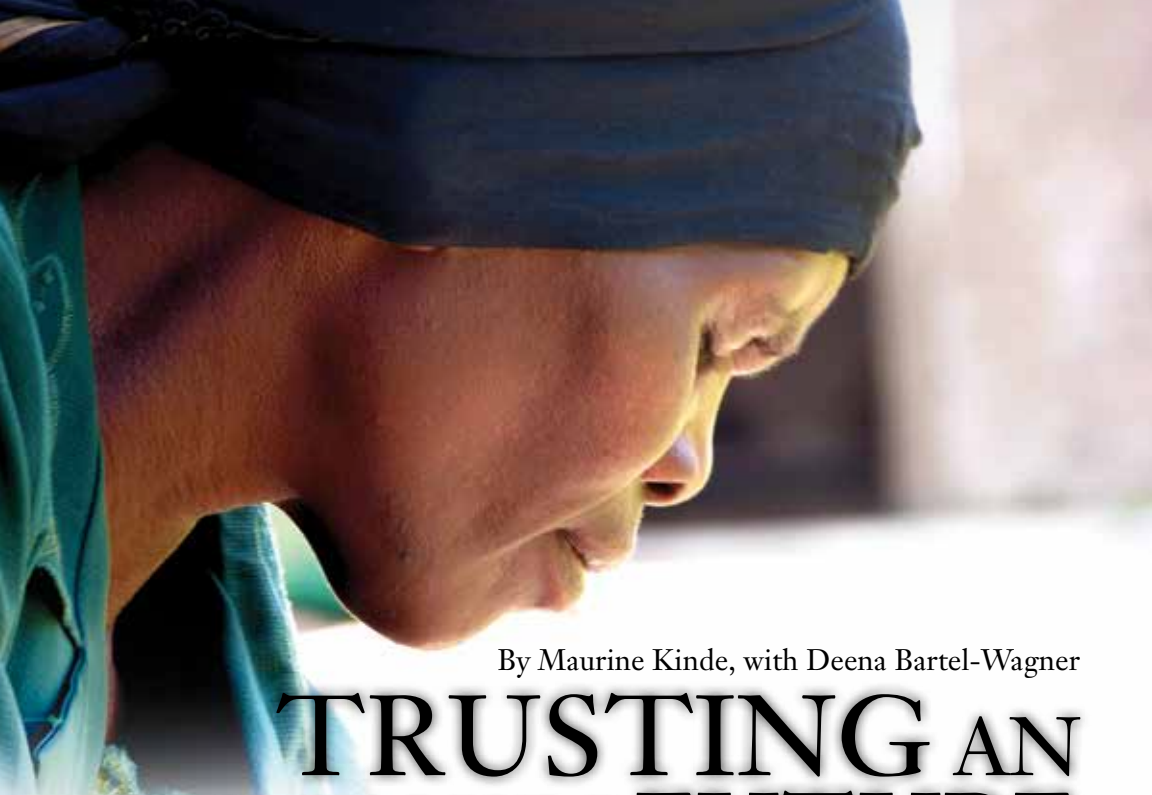
If you are busy mentally making your weekend plans while your co-worker gives a presentation, you aren't listening. Do you flick through your emails on your phone while others are sharing during briefing? You aren't listening.

Test yourself and how much you are actually listening. At the end of a conversation, review what the person just said. Can you name the major points? Did you miss a nuance that might be important in the next week? Another way to test your listening skills is to repeat the high points back to the other person. Clarify if this is what they meant. This will help others see that you are interested in their views.

WHY SHOULD I BUILD RELATIONSHIPS AT WORK?

In his book *The Church in the Workplace: How God's People Can Transform Society*, C. Peter Wagner writes, "Christians need to have a vision. What they do in the workplace is paramount to bringing the kingdom of God here on earth as it is in heaven."

How are you fulfilling this idea? Do your co-workers feel a difference when they are in your presence? Is there authenticity and transparency in your relationships? What is your vision to build relationships at work that reflect God's kingdom?



By Maurine Kinde, with Deena Bartel-Wagner

TRUSTING AN UNKNOWN FUTURE TO A KNOWN GOD

Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God.” These words were penned by Holocaust survivor Corrie Ten Boom. As Christians, there are times when trusting the future to God is the only thing that can be done. There are no real answers why circumstances occur. Situations are beyond any human control. Those are the times when it is the most difficult to let go, but that is all that a person can do.

As a military spouse, Maurine Kandie knows the difficulty of separation from her husband. She learned to cope with raising children, working as a nurse, and to face

challenges alone while her husband, Moses, is deployed.

Maurine experienced putting her trust in a known God while her children were small. A turning point was at the premature birth of her son, James. Born three months too early, James weighed only 800 grams when he took his first breath. “While Moses was deployed, James was born,” says Maurine. “It was difficult to know that our son might not survive long enough for his father to meet him. Then I received the news that James had a physical deformity of his lower limbs.”

James did survive those early days and began to develop. He was referred to specialists for corrective surgery on

his legs. “James had his first surgery when he was one-year-old,” says Maurine. “This was followed by a second surgery six months later.”

Every two weeks Maurine would have to take James in for a checkup. When he was three years old, James had his third surgery. “This was a difficult time for our family,” says Maurine. “The surgery was to be performed at a hospital sponsored by the Italian government here in Kenya. One of the requirements following the surgery was that James would have to remain in the hospital’s rehab unit for one year.”

James would receive the necessary therapy that would allow him to walk as normally as possible. Again, Maurine’s faith was tested. “We could only visit James once a month,” says Maurine. “That was a difficult time for us. I had to continue my work as a nurse on the maternity ward where mothers with their babies surrounded me. I longed to hold my son and rock him.”

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Finally, the year came to an end, and the doctors released James into his family’s care.” James wore braces on both legs for the next six months. At last, he was able to be fitted for a regular pair of shoes.

From the time James was old enough to understand, Maurine encouraged him with a spiritual acceptance of his condition. “The story of the blind man whom Jesus healed was an important part of our coping with James’ surgeries and treatment,” says Maurine. “I would often remind James that the





restoration of his body would reflect God's glory. God will remain God no matter what happens in our lives."

James' family didn't treat him in any special way. Although Maurine shoulders much of the burden of raising her family with Moses on deployment, her prayer life is an integral part of her parenting. "I became a praying mother and led my children also to be prayerful about their lives," says Maurine.

The years passed, and James grew strong and excelled in his academic studies. He walked with a barely noticeable limp and life for Maurine, James, and family life fell into a rhythm.

A phone call from James' school shattered the family's routine. At 16, James was enrolled in Form 2 (sophomore year) and eagerly involved in his studies. "He began to develop headaches and eye problems," says Maurine. A visit to the optometrist resulted in glasses and analgesics for

James. The headaches didn't improve; rather they became worse.

"The school James attended is four hours from our home," says Maurine. "I received a phone call that something was seriously wrong and that I would need to come immediately."

The trip to the school was excruciating. Maurine didn't know what she would find, but she continued to have faith that God was leading. "When I arrived at the school and saw James, he didn't recognize me," says Maurine. "I told him to

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listen to my voice. From that he knew I was his mother.”

Thirty minutes later, James asked, “Are you my mother?” It was evident that something was seriously wrong. Eventually, doctors were able to diagnose that James had both short and long term memory loss. “He didn’t know his siblings, his parents, or anyone else. He had to re-learn basic tasks.” says Maurine. “The doctors were unable to make a complete diagnosis.”

James experienced severe mood swings and depression. Recovery has been slow, but James continues to make progress. “I have had to teach him everything over again,” says Maurine. “He had to learn how to count, write, and read just as he had in his elementary school years.”

Again facing a test of her faith, Maurine’s unwaveringly told James, “God is going to give you a new memory.”

“Prayer has been my constant companion and solace,” says Maurine. “It is such a comfort to be able to spend time talking with God about my burdens. As James continues to improve, I see God creating a new memory in James.”

As a military spouse, Maurine has learned to live without her husband Moses being around on a regular basis. “He’s had numerous deployments with the Kenyan Defence Forces,” says Maurine. “This has taken a toll on him over time.”

Recently, Moses and his unit were ambushed by a contingent of Al-Shabaab. As with military families in other parts of the world, Maurine and Moses are dealing with the fallout of battle and the effects of armed conflicts. Prolonged separation is painful. The consequences of things such as post-traumatic stress and

moral injury take a toll.

The Kenyan Defence Forces have access to resources to help them cope and stay as healthy as possible. The added stress of dealing with a militant insurgent group in the region increases the need for additional coping resources.

As her son recovers and her husband faces another year-long deployment, Maurine is steadfast in her faith. “I am and will continue to be a praying mother and wife,” says Maurine. “God has seen me through hard times. He has continued to be



faithful in His promises to me.”

As she watches James’s restoration, Maurine also believes that God’s glory will be reflected in the healing process and the recovery her son is making. She trusts that no matter what the future holds, her faith in the God she knows and believes in will carry her through. Maurine doesn’t shoulder the challenges of being a military wife, a mother to her children, and to a child who has experienced severe health issues alone. She’s a daughter of the Most High God, and she continues to put her future in His care.

GROWTH IN THE STRETCH

By Jennifer Chery, US Navy with Deena Bartel-Wagner

Why do you want to join the Navy?" Mother asked in shock. Jennifer Chery could only give one reason. "God has chosen me for this," says Jennifer. "It's not something I would have chosen for myself."

As a college student, Jennifer didn't know what she wanted to do. "During my senior year, I participated in an

internship with a social worker," says Jennifer. "It piqued my interest." Following graduation, every job that Jennifer was offered was a social services position. "I began to see a pattern and realized I should rethink the entire social work dynamic. I went back to school and completed my master's degree."

Her career path led her to work

Left – Jennifer received the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal.
Right – Members of the Adventist Fellowship group.



AS HER WORK TOOK HER DEEPER INTO THE LIVES OF THE VETERANS, JENNIFER FELT THE NEED FOR A CHANGE IN HER CAREER.

with the Veterans Administration, a United States government agency that supports the needs of military personnel once they are discharged. “I was working with a lot of older veterans, some of whom were homeless,” says Jennifer. “Everyone of them has a story to tell. Many of those stories include the sad reality that they didn’t have the best support systems while they were in the military.”

As her work took her deeper into the lives of the veterans, Jennifer felt the need for a change in her career. “I thought God was calling me to join the Navy Reserves,” says Jennifer. “I was willing and tried to join, but wasn’t successful. It seemed that door had closed.”

The sense that the military was where God wanted her to be didn’t go away. “Later, I thought about enlisting

in the Navy,” says Jennifer. “I began to talk to people about it, but I had trouble finding much information about social workers.”

Her persistence was rewarded and Jennifer finally enlisted. Joining the Navy was just the first step that God had in mind for Jennifer. “When I arrived at Sasebo Naval Base in Japan, I had three options for housing. I chose to move into the barracks in order to have more contact with other sailors,” says Jennifer.

Work was a busy time each week. “I was part of the Educational Developmental Intervention Services (EDIS). It is a multi-disciplinary team that provides occupational services for school age children from the ages of 0-21,” says Jennifer. “My role in Sasebo was to work with the children who are in the Department of Defense school system. Children have mental health issues that arise which need to be met.”

An Individualized Educational Plan (IEP) is developed for each child. This personalized plan will support children who need specialized education and related services. “I didn’t come from an education background, so this assignment was new territory for me,” admits Jennifer. “I spent a lot of time in prayer asking God to guide me in my work. Although I had a great support staff, I was independent in my work. I learned what it meant to give all my cares and



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concerns over to God. Daily, I would pray that he would help me rise above the situation and help me to grow."

Jennifer is even more convinced today that this experience has helped develop her spiritual growth. "You only grow when your faith has been tested," she says.

With her arrival in Sasebo, Jennifer soon wondered what she would do for church services. One day she noticed a sign that indicated there was a Seventh-day Adventist fellowship group meeting. "I thought that was unusual for a base in Japan, but was excited to learn that there were fellow believers nearby," says Jennifer.

A group of three Adventists were meeting in Sasebo. They coordinated with other Adventist groups in the region, including Yokosuta and Misawa "Our group wanted to establish an outreach that would be beneficial to the Japanese community," says Jennifer. "We settled on the idea of Little Friends and Company. This is a free event that children and their parents can participate in. We featured crafts, songs, stories, games, and more."

The first meeting was very successful with 15-20 children attending. The group received recognition from the media when a Japanese news crew came and filmed the event. With such a success, a

regular group was formed. "We began to offer English immersion classes for the mothers," says Jennifer. "One of the mothers wanted to help raise funds for the group and donated clothing. Soon we had a garage sale organized to raise funds to assist our group."

The group broke down language and cultural barriers through friendship and openness. "It costs nothing to take the time to be someone's friend," says Jennifer.

Just when Jennifer thought she had broadened her ministry, God laid another task at her feet. "I was asked to fill the role of Distinctive Faith Group Leader (DFGLs) for our Adventist group in Sasebo," says Jennifer.

In the United States military, DFGLs can be appointed by their denomination to lead out in spiritual gatherings, if there are no congregations of a specific group with a unique, separate, and distinctive faith available. "This was the case in Sasebo," says Jennifer. "Although I was raised as an Adventist, leading a group like this was not something I would have actively sought. I knew going into this God would stretch me even further."

Jennifer tries to set a tone in the group that gives the message that the sailor is coming home. "I want them to understand that it doesn't matter what they've done or where they've been,



Left – Jennifer tells a story at Little Friends and Company
Right – Jennifer enjoys learning about Japanese culture.

the important thing is they are a part of the worship group now,” says Jennifer.

Finding unity in faith, although there are diverse journeys to that faith is an important thing to keep in mind. “We all can identify with each other that we are Adventists,” says Jennifer. “There is common ground even though everyone has been raised differently. I look up to everyone of our group members, because I believe we can learn from each other.”

As the group worships together weekly, they pray for each other. “The group fluctuates because some members may be out on a ship,” says Jennifer. “Others may be struggling with their own faith experience. Prayer plays an important role in lifting each other up.”

Jennifer believes in looking at the bigger picture in work and worship. “You can get caught up in the minutiae or you can work things

out, work together, and strive for excellence,” says Jennifer.

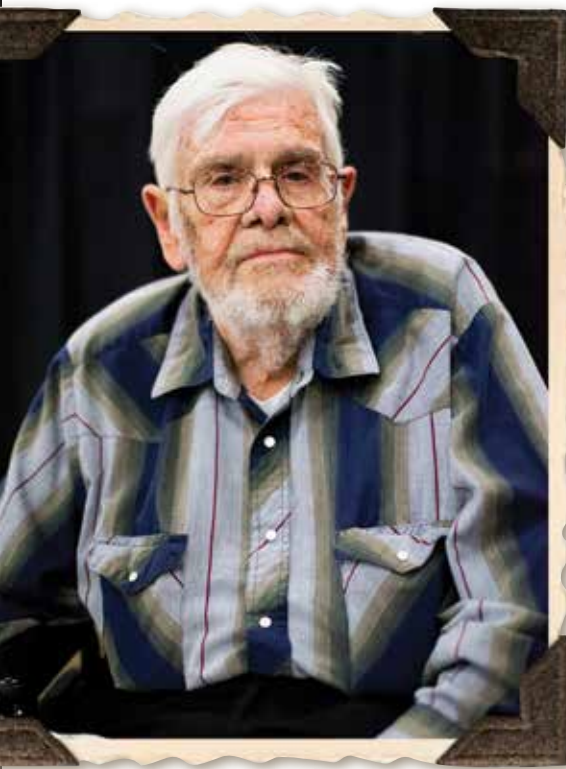
Her time with the veterans brings to mind how she talks with others today. “I heard stories where there was either not enough or the proper kind of support and how that affected the lives of service members,” says Jennifer. “It makes me more mindful of what I am saying to others, whether it is the children I work with, the young recruit who I listen to at the crisis care center, or my fellow believers. At times I feel like I’m peering into their futures.”

“I knew coming into the military that God was going to stretch me. I knew that I needed to learn obedience,” says Jennifer. “I have never had to balance both my work and my spiritual life like this before. God has given me experiences and will continue to do so. I think about that and know that God will take care of whatever I’m faced with in the future.”



PINS NEEDLES **AND** WARTIME

By Henry P. Smith, WW II Veteran with Deena Bartel-Wagner



“AS I SCANNED THE HORIZON AND THE WATER, I SAW A RIPPLE IN THE WATER.” A GERMAN TORPEDO WAS SLICING THROUGH THE WATER SEEKING ITS TARGET.

destroyer, the *Goff* spent time in the Caribbean as both a convoy escort and a patrol vessel. Heavy traffic of German U-boats seeking easy targets kept the *Goff* busy with duty days stretching out to 10-days and then a return to port only long enough to refuel and resupply. Leaving the Caribbean, Smith and crew traveled on patrols across the Atlantic to Casablanca. From July to November 1943, the *Goff* joined the *Card*, *Barry*, and *Borrie* to form a carrier group that conducted two highly successful anti-submarine patrols across the Atlantic. By this time, the Allies had cracked the top-secret German Enigma codes. This aided greatly in the search for the enemy and collectively, the group sunk eight U-boats.

Henry P. Smith had no idea that learning to sew at age five would direct his life through a world war and a career that spanned all of his working years.

Like many other able-bodied young men, Smith was drafted into the conflict of World War II. “When I went to the induction center, I looked at my options and chose the line where I joined the United States Navy,” says Henry.

He was soon on his way to boot camp in Newport, Rhode Island. Henry received sage advice when he left for the Navy. “I was told to keep my nose clean and to follow orders, and I would have an easier time,” says Smith. “I remembered it and followed it!” Upon successful completion, Smith then participated in further training for his assignment as a cook on the *USS Goff* (DD-247). As a Clemson-class





“I remember standing on the *Goff*’s deck and looking out over the water,” says Smith. “I was near the 50 caliber machine gun that served for protection. As I scanned the horizon and the water, I saw a ripple in the water.” A German torpedo was slicing through the water seeking its target.

“On the night of October 27 the convoy encountered a pair of U-Boats. One of them was sunk, but the other escaped,” says Smith. “The *Borie* was sent to follow the fleeing vessel.” On November 1, the *Borie* encountered two more German submarines and came under attack. The battle raged throughout the day and into the evening. Finally, the German subs were fended off when they were sunk. The *Borie* crew believed the battle finished and the ship’s captain ordered the ship be slowed. The crew would pick up the German survivors. Suddenly, a third U-Boat appeared and fired torpedoes at the *Borie*.

The battle damage was too much and the ship eventually had to be abandoned. “We received orders that the *Goff* and the *Barry* were to move towards the *Borie*,” says Smith. “We were to render aid to our sister ship. As we approached the ocean swells were incredibly high—over forty feet. We couldn’t get close enough without causing damage to our ship.” The

rescue attempts continued and finally around 0200 on 2 November, the last of the *Borie* survivors was rescued by the *Goff* and the *Barry*. “Once we had all the survivors, we rendezvoused with the *Card* and transferred the survivors,” says Smith. “The *Borie* lost 3 officers and 24 enlisted men.” Even with the loss of the *Borie*, the carrier group had successfully completed the mission. “Because of the coordination and success of the trips, our ship was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation,” says Smith.

Following a brief overhaul of the *Goff*, Smith and his crew were next assigned to escort the *Albemarle*, a seaplane tender. “We convoyed with the *Albemarle* and the *Barry* to Casablanca, Reykjavik, Iceland, San Juan, Trinidad, Recife, Brazil, and Avonmouth, England,” says Smith.

Following a reassignment, Smith transferred to the *USS Griggs* (APA-110), a Windsor-class attack transport. The *Griggs* and the other Windsor-class ships transported troops and their equipment overseas in order to execute amphibious invasions. They were equipped with their own fleet of landing craft. Similar to other attack transports, the Windsor-class was protected with antiaircraft weaponry to protect itself and its cargo of troops.

“I spent the rest of the war in

the Pacific Theater on Okinawa,” says Smith. Now I was a Seaman 1st Class and was assigned to the tailor shop. I was able to put my skills I had learned as a boy to good work patching uniforms, along with other sewing tasks.”

When victory was declared in the Pacific, Smith returned to his native Brooklyn, New York. “I grew up in Brooklyn,” says Smith. “My mother was exposed to Seventh-day Adventists during an evangelistic series in Norway before she immigrated to the United States. When she arrived in Brooklyn, she located the Adventist Church and that is where we attended during my childhood.”

With military service behind him, Smith tried his hand at working in a mattress factory and a furniture factory. Sewing was still his interest. “I finally had the opportunity to move in the garment industry,” says Smith. “I spent the rest of my career in the fashion industry.” Eventually, he would work for fashion designer Victor Costa who specialized in women’s apparel and particularly, bridal design.

In the early days after World War II, the Adventist Church experienced growth and change also. In May 1950, a new television program launched an evangelistic ministry on WJZ (now known as WABC. Faith for Today was led by William and Virginia Fagal. “A short dramatic skit was one of the features of the program,” says Smith. Never having acted before, Smith was surprised when he was asked to appear in one of the skits.

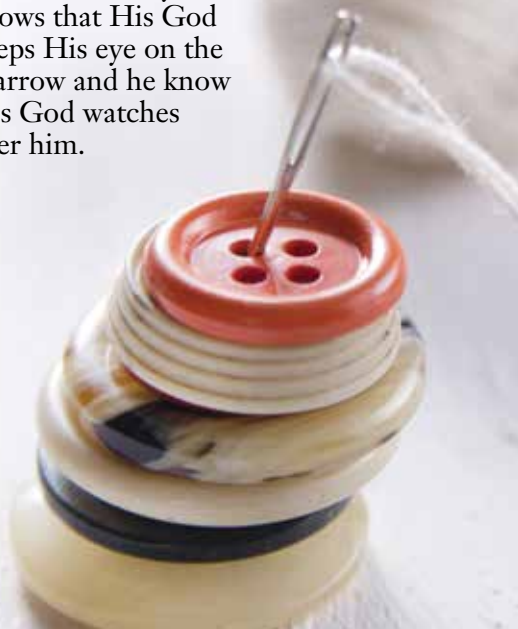
Smith and his wife, Christine, had other ties with the Fagals. “Elder Fagal performed our wedding ceremony,” says Smith. “When the Faith for Today team scheduled a series of meetings at Carnegie Hall,

“I FINALLY HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO MOVE IN THE GARMENT INDUSTRY,” SAYS SMITH. “I SPENT THE REST OF MY CAREER IN THE FASHION INDUSTRY.”

new robes were needed for the choir. I was asked to help with the creation of those robes.”

Through the years, Smith has been active in his local church. Today he is a member of the Fort Worth Northwest Seventh-day Adventist Church in Texas. “I’ve colporteurd, served as an elder and deacon, and as an assistant choir director,” says Smith.

The years have slipped by, but Henry Smith believes that God was with him during wartime and in peace. Whether standing on a ship’s bow during a cold night in the Atlantic or in Carnegie Hall listening to the Gospel being preached, Henry knows that His God keeps His eye on the sparrow and he know His God watches over him.



NEW BLESSINGS FOR EACH NEW DAY 2016

The National Service–North American Division (NSO–NAD), a functional chapter of Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries (ACM), provides complimentary subscriptions of Seventh-day Adventist church publications to active duty military church members. This service has been available for more than 50 years.

The funding for these gift subscriptions comes in part from a shared offering received annually from churches in the North American Division. These monies are crucial to the religious support that Adventists



who serve in uniform need and that the NSO–NAD provides.

NSO–NAD seeks to be good stewards of these funds. Keeping mailing lists current and ensuring that

SUBSCRIPTION ORDERS NOW ACCEPTED ONLINE

TO ORDER SUBSCRIPTIONS AND/OR DEVOTIONAL MATERIALS:

1. Visit the NSO–NAD website at AdventistsInUniform.org to log in to your personal profile. *If you do not currently have a profile, click on the New Member? Sign Up Here to begin the process.*
2. Once you open your profile, click on the Subscriptions tab and select two (2) magazine titles, in addition to *For God and Country*, *Adult Bible Study Guide*, and *Adventist Review*.
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magazines are delivered is a part of that stewardship. Your understanding and cooperation will greatly assist NSO-NAD to provide effective support for you while you are representing your

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- *Guide*
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WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

To be eligible for NSO paid subscriptions you must be a Seventh-day Adventist Church member in an Adventist church in the North American Division and in one of the following military-related categories:

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- Military exchanges (AAFES, NEX, etc.) worker overseas
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DEVOTIONAL BOOKS

Adventist active-duty military personnel are eligible to receive a free devotional book, courtesy of the National Service Organization–North American Division and Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries. Guidelines for eligibility are noted on page 26. Single service members, as well as other employee categories listed on page 26 may choose one free devotional. Married service members may choose two devotional books. Order these online in your personal profile at AdventistsInUniform.org.

If you would like to purchase additional books, contact NSO-NAD for pricing. You will place your order online. We are currently unable to process online payments. Checks should be made payable to National Service Organization and sent to the National Service Organization—North American Division at the address shown at the bottom of the page.

- ADULT – *Homeward Bound*
- EVENING – *Believe His Prophets*
- WOMEN – *Living His Love*
- PARENTING – *Help! I'm a Parent*
- YOUNG ADULT – *African Rice Heart*
- TEEN – *That Was Random*
- JUNIOR – *Llamas, Leopards, and Lizards*
- PRIMARY – *God's Big Idea*
- PRESCHOOL – *Hugs From Jesus*

MAGAZINES

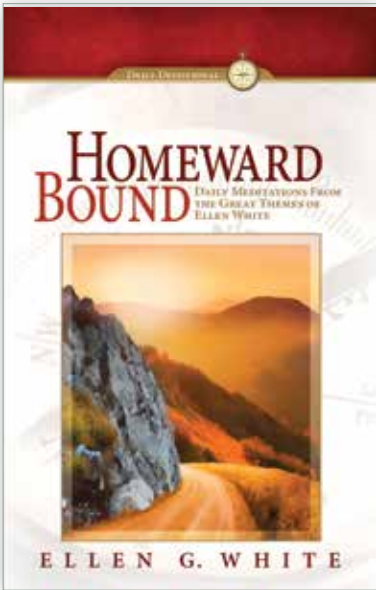
Annually, NSO-NAD sends Adventist active-duty members and eligible government employees a one-year subscription to two magazines. Order these online in your profile at AdventistsInUniform.org. You are automatically eligible to receive the World Service Organization publication *For God and Country*, the *Adventist Review*, and the *Adult Bible Study Guide*. Additionally, you may choose two free subscriptions of your choice from the following:

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- Liberty*
- Message*
- Our Little Friend*
- Primary Treasure*
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ADULT *Homeward Bound*

Ellen G. White

Homeward Bound marks a century's passing since the death of Ellen G. White and is a special collection that covers some of the major themes she wrote about through the years. Some of the topics covered include surrender and acceptance, victory in Christ, a united church, and the great controversy.

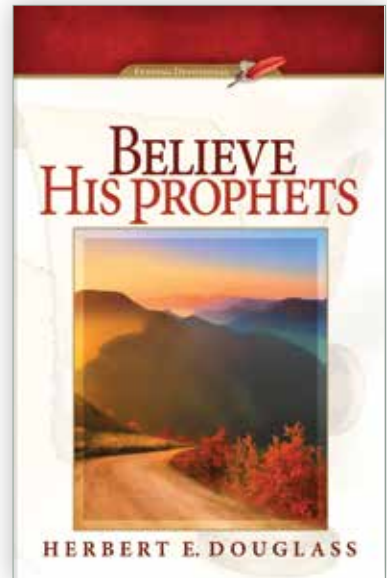
Hardcover. US\$17.99

EVENING *Believe His Prophets*

Herbert E. Douglass

From Satan's first deception through the second coming of Jesus, *Believe His Prophets* tells the grand story of the God who loves you and longs to bring you home. Each chapter in these precious books reveals another event in the great controversy between good and evil.

Hardcover. US\$17.99

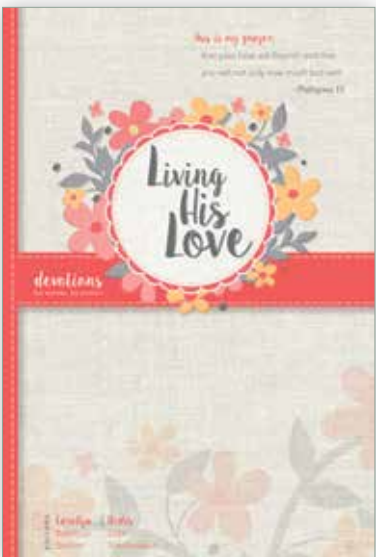


WOMENS *Living His Love*

Carolyn Rathbun Sutton with Ardis Dick Stenbakken, editors

Do you long to experience the love of Jesus more deeply? Do you desire to reflect it more fully? Do you hunger for the assurance of His presence? The stories found within these pages will immerse you in God's love and enrich your understanding of what His love looks like, sounds like, and feels like, in a far-too-busy world.

Hardcover. US\$17.99





PARENTING *Help! I'm a Parent*

Claudio and Pamela Consuegra

Being a parent today is one of life's greatest challenges but also a sacred calling. It is awesome to think that God chose you to partner with Him in molding and shaping the character of your children and leading them to become disciples of Jesus Christ. It is one of the most important roles you will ever play!

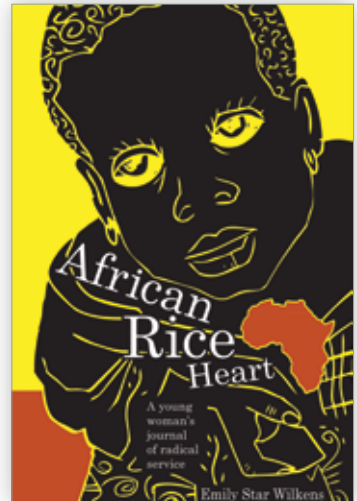
Hardcover. US\$17.99

YOUNG ADULT *African Rice Heart*

Emily Star Wilkens

African Rice Heart is an earthy, candid, and poetic narrative that traces Emily's journey of growth, challenge, and discovery. Emily weaves her stories of wonder and longing, tragedy and tears, and ultimately, the sense of belonging she found during her year of service in Béré, Chad.

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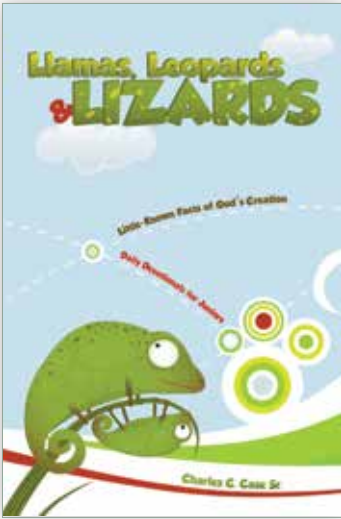
TEEN *That Was Random*

Olivia Gold

Teenagers often have busy schedules, dramatic relationships, techy gadgets, and bursting closets. When taken to excess, they can also get in the way of our relationship with God. But God has a better plan. *That Was Random* looks at 365 different objects, from keychains and paper snowflakes to toy wagons and wedding veils, and shows how everyday objects can remind us to keep our focus on Jesus.

US\$16.99





JUNIOR/EARLITEEN *Llamas, Leopards, and Lizards*

Charles C. Case Sr.

Explore the Wild World of Nature! From comet dust to flying squirrels and lizards to llamas, the great outdoors is filled with wonders. You won't believe what you read about worms that build tents, orcas that like to play, and animals that take seven-month-long naps. God has hidden fascinating lessons in the details of His creation. So explore, enjoy, and praise the Creator of all!

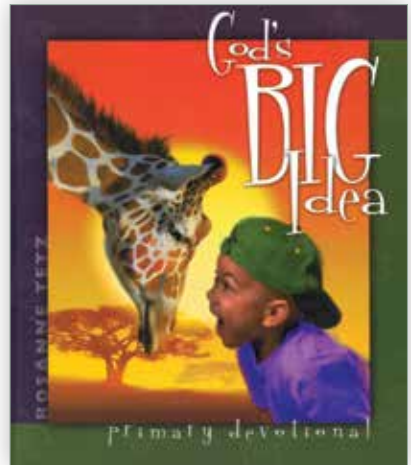
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PRIMARY *God's Big Idea*

Rosanne Tetz

You'll be guided through the six days of Creation, and end up with God's plan for a new earth. Along the way you'll solve many of life's lesser mysteries (do fish sleep?) and a few of the greater ones (why am I here?). And every fascinating fact about the world we live in (cats purr) becomes a doorway to big truth about life. You can get wise and grow your soul by starting every morning with a big idea from God.

Hardcover. US\$15.99

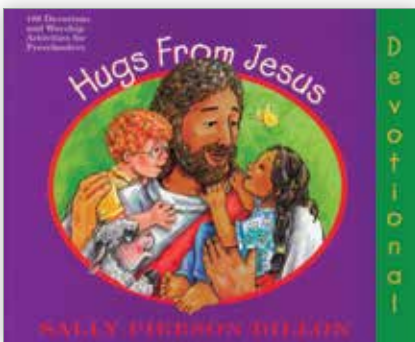


PRESCHOOL *Hugs From Jesus*

Sally Pierson Dillon

These simple object lessons will arouse your child's imagination with a wide variety of hands-on experiences. Most of them involving easy five-minute craft projects that engage all the senses, stimulating your child's growing intellect. Your child will grow in wonder at all things wise and wonderful and in gratitude to the Lord who made them all.

Hardcover. US\$15.99



E

ach of you should be concerned not only about your own interests, but about the interests of others as well. You should have the same attitude toward one another that Christ Jesus had.

– EPHESIANS 2:4, 5 NET



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“Friendship is born at that moment when one person says to another, “What! You too? I thought I was the only one”

C.S. Lewis



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